

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Gloria Russo
CHAIRPERSON
CEQ

Michael P. Mulé
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR

SUFFOLK COUNTY
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
MINUTES

DATE: February 15, 2012

TIME: 9:30 am to 11:45 pm

LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library
H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 4th Floor
Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

PRESENT:

Gloria Russo, Chair
James Bagg, Vice-Chair
Hon. Kara Hahn
Michael Kaufman
Richard Machtay
MaryAnn Spencer
Larry Swanson

ABSENT:

Eva Growney
Tom Gulbransen
Dan Pichney

CAC REPRESENTATIVES:

Joy Squires, Town of Huntington

STAFF:

Michael Mulé, Environmental Projects Coordinator
Christine DeSalvo, Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS:

Lauretta Fischer, Chief Env'tl. Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Nick Gibbons, Principal Env'tl. Analyst, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Conservation
Thomas Young, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Dept. of Law
Ben Riepnieks, Jr. Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works
Ron Hill, Principal, Dunn Engineering Associates
Rick Brand, Reporter, Newsday
Elizabeth Boesch, Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works

LOCATION
H. LEE DENNISON BLDG. – 4TH FLOOR
100 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 6100
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788-0099

(631) 853-5191
fax (631) 853-4044

Lizbett Harding, Sr. Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works
Niamh Perrotta, Traffic Engineer II, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works
Thomas Ryan, Legislative Aide, 5th Legislative District

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Machtay to approve the January 18, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagg to approve the November 16, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson. Mr. Machtay abstained. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Spencer gave a brief overview of a letter from Legislator Browning to the County Executive urging the Department of Public Works to issue a request for proposals to secure engineering services with regard to the stabilization of the Homan-Gerard House in Yaphank. She went on to reference the Historic Trust Committee resolution requesting that the CEQ, as the Suffolk County Historic Trust, write a letter to the County Executive supporting Legislator Browning's position. The Council agreed to have staff prepare a letter of support.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None

HISTORIC TRUST DOCKET:

Mr. Martin updated the Council on the following:

Housing Program:

- All houses that are able to be rented are in fact rented at this point.
- The Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation is working on getting a new roof on one of the houses at Robinson Duck Farm County Park with work to be completed by this spring.

Custodial Agreements:

- The custodial agreement for The L.I. Maritime Museum has been completed by the County and sent to the Museum for their review and comment.
- The Coindre Hall Boat House restoration project has been put on hold and we are awaiting an engineering study for recommendations on how to proceed.

Mr. Martin went on to present the Historic Trust Committee's recommendation to dedicate/list Old Field Farm County Park and its associated structures to the Suffolk County Historic Trust. The Council discussed the site, its operations and its relation to the surrounding lands and deliberated on the appropriate use and preservation category for each element of the property.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to recommend the dedication/listing of Old Field Farm County Park and its associated structures to the Suffolk County Historic Trust as recommended by the Historic Trust Committee except for building #10 (caretaker's apartment) which shall be listed instead of dedicated. He added classification as a Type II Action to his motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

PROJECT REVIEW:

Recommended Type II Actions:

Ratification of Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table February 7, 2012

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to accept staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

Recommended Unlisted Actions:

Proposed Construction of a Seawall, County Road 77, West Lake Drive, Montauk, Town of East Hampton

Mr. Riepnieks presented the proposed action outlining the history of erosion in this area, the damage sustained and the threat to County road infrastructure. Mr. Kaufman discussed the environmental impacts associated with a hardened shoreline and inquired as to which direction the long shore current flows.

Members went on to question the necessity of this project. Mr. Swanson stated that this project is in conflict with the New York State Department of State's coastal zone management policies and asked what has been done to obtain their approval. Mr. Bagg inquired as to the opportunity for a sand bypass program in relation to the Army Corp of Engineers inlet dredging project. The Council went on to recommend an historical review of aerials to determine past erosion activity in the area.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to table until the additional information requested can be submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swanson. Motion carried.

Proposed Safety and Capacity Improvements to Nicolls Road (CR 97) at Hammond Rd., Hawkins Rd./Wireless Rd, and Pond Path (CP 5512), Town of Brookhaven

Mr. Hill presented the proposed project discussing the current safety concerns at the identified intersections in contrast with what improvements will be done in order to resolve the safety and capacity concerns. The Council made a note to include in the negative declaration that all necessary DEC permits will be obtained prior to construction.

Mr. Bagg made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

Proposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Aspatuck Creek County Wetlands Addition – C. Barnes and K. Barnes Property and the John Barnes and Christopher Barnes Property, Town of Southampton

A presentation was given by Ms. Fischer concerning the acquisition of 2.32± acres of land by Suffolk County for open space preservation purposes in the vicinity of the Aspatuck Creek County Wetlands.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Motion carried.

Proposed Acquisition for Open Space Preservation Purposes Known as the Beaverdam Creek County Wetlands Addition – Mallins & Estate of Entenmann Property, Town of Brookhaven

Ms. Fischer informed the Council that the County has yet to receive the Phase II Environmental Site

Assessment and asked that the proposed project be tabled until the document can be reviewed.

Mr. Machtay made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagg. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CEQ Bylaws

Ms. Russo asked that the Council table this item as Mr. Swanson had to leave and he was interested in participating in the discussion.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to table. The motion was tabled by Mr. Machtay. Motion carried.

CAC CONCERNS:

Ms. Squires inquired as to whom we discuss the status of open space acquisitions as they relate to the planning steps moratorium bill. She feels that the Town of Huntington no longer knows how to proceed with joint acquisitions. Legislator Hahn explained the impetus of the bill and the fact that the County may no longer bond for open space acquisitions and must now prioritize purchases for what little funds are left in that section of the Drinking Water Protection Program. She explained that properties that have already been approved for acquisition but have yet to close will pause while the County prioritizes. However, acquisitions will proceed as usual until the proposed legislation passes.